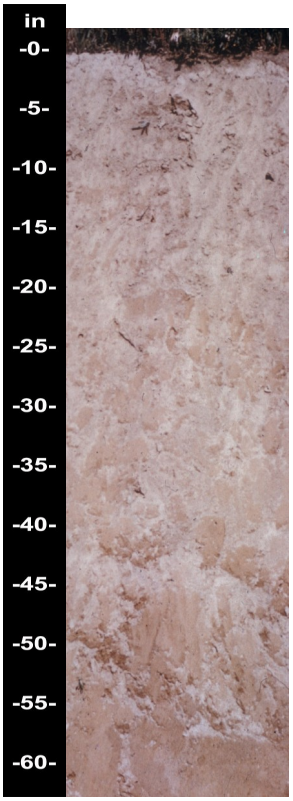
RITZVILLE SERIES

Ritzville soils are on the broad ridge tops in the foreground

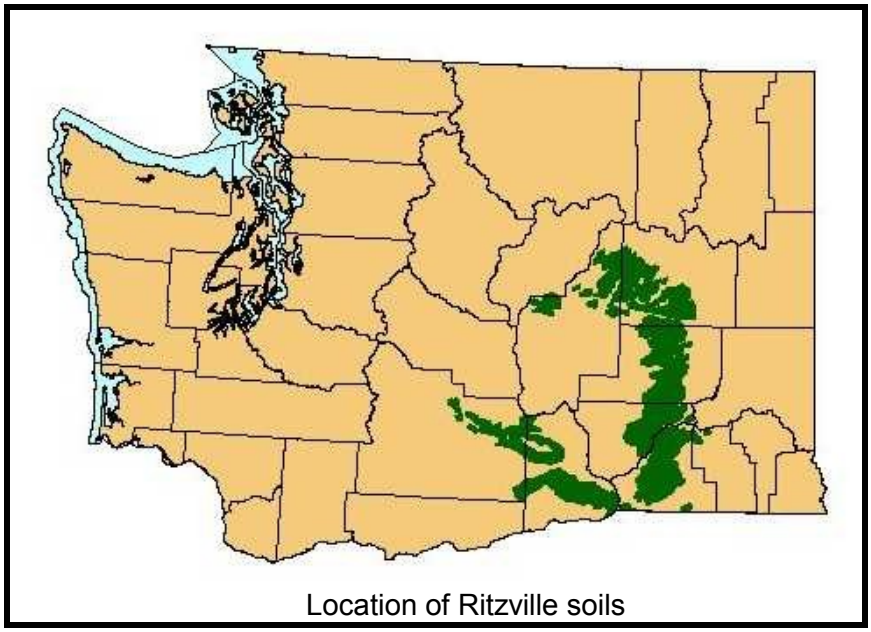


A

Bw

Bk

C



Location of Ritzville soils

RITZVILLE SERIES

Land Resource Region B

Parent material: Wind-blown silt (loess) with small amounts of volcanic ash in the surface

Extent: Extensive

Climate: Average annual precipitation is about 10 inches and average annual soil temperature is about 49 degrees F. The climate is characterized by warm, dry summers and cool, moist winters.

Depth: 60 or more inches

Drainage: Well drained

Average frost-free period: 130 to 180 days

Elevation: 700 to 3,000 feet

Soil order: Mollisols - grassland soils with dark-colored surfaces and high natural fertility

Family classification: Coarse-silty, mixed, superactive, mesic Calcidic Haploxerolls

Ritzville soils are on uplands and ridges. They are in Washington and Oregon. In Washington they are in Adams, Benton, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima Counties. In Oregon they are in Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, and Umatilla Counties.

Uses: Crop production and some livestock grazing.

Cultivated areas are used to produce small grains, peas, and lentils.

Management considerations: Low organic matter content in the surface horizon makes these soils susceptible to wind and water erosion. Steep slopes in some areas limit management,

Laboratory data are available from the National Soil Survey Laboratory in Lincoln, Nebraska. Pedon numbers 40A0964, 40A0981, 92P0077, and 92P0680.

The official soil series description is online at:
https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/R/RITZVILLE.html